

ILRI Ref: DG/Let/250/2017

31st July 2017

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Mr Elwyn Grainger-Jones
Executive Director
CGIAR System Organisation
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Dear Elwyn,

Ref: Submission of revised Livestock CRP flagship

As lead Center of the Livestock Agri-food Systems CRP, ILRI is pleased to submit, on behalf of all partners, revised proposals for the two Livestock CRP flagship: Feed and Forages (F&F), and Livestock Livelihoods and Agri-Food Systems (LLAFS). Both flagships are critical components of the integrated approach adopted by the Livestock CRP to strengthen the ability of CGIAR livestock research to generate outputs that translate into use and impact, and capitalizes on the crucial role that livestock must play in achieving the System Level Outcomes and Sustainable Development Goals.

When preparing the revised flagship proposals, we considered it essential that they remain framed within the context of the original proposal, i.e. with the same 6-year time frame and within the original budget allocation. This will maintain the coherence of the CRP and, importantly, facilitate the reviewers in understanding the changes we have made and how they relate to the other flagships in the CRP. Also, we did not adjust the budget given the continuing considerable uncertainty about CRP funding levels and recognizing that in any case the CRP will be continually practicing flexible management of the program, for example, having to adjust its annual Plan of Work and Budget during both planning and implementation to reflect fluctuating W1/2 availability, for both the previously approved flagships and these revised ones.

To address the SMB guidance “to include strategies to expand the available resource base to finance the flagship from W1-2 rather than further dividing funding for other CRPs”, we highlight the successful efforts to mobilize additional bilateral resources. The projected income from W3/bilateral sources for 2017 and 2018 compared to the original proposal for the Feed and Forage Flagship is \$12M compared to \$7.4M and for Livestock Livelihoods and Agri-Food Systems is \$18.4M compared to \$10.3M. Although the available resource base has expanded, it must be stressed that while the increased bilateral funded activities are aligned with and certainly contribute to achieving the flagships’ outcomes, these activities must first address the donor objectives and requirements: W1/2 funding therefore remains essential to add value strategically to the bilateral funded activities to achieve the flagship outputs and outcomes and maximise the generation of international public goods.

*Patron: Professor Peter C Doherty AC, FAA, FRS
Animal scientist, Nobel Prize Laureate for Physiology or Medicine–1996*

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To address the concerns expressed by ISPC, we have given particular attention in both flagships to strengthening the explanation of how research priorities have been derived, and justification for the CGIAR's role. The narratives also provide more clarity on the key outputs the flagships will achieve.

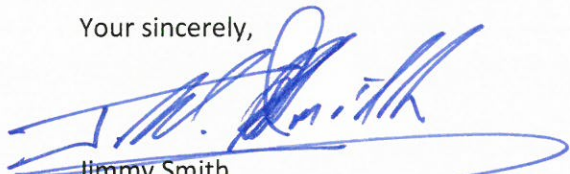
In the case of the F&F flagship, we have tried to find an appropriate balance to reconcile the guidance from the ISPC and donors (FEWG) reviews regarding upstream breeding work. As a result, we have increased the effort devoted to the more downstream components from the original 20% to 50% of W1/2 funds, which responds to the ISPC advice to address the immediate challenge of demonstrating ability to achieve uptake of research outputs. We have maintained the 50% W1/2 funding for the breeding work consistent with expressed donor priorities and as manifested by the 2017 emergency gap funding for this area provided by donors.

The LLAFS flagship makes more clear how its priorities have evolved to address the critical challenges limiting the uptake of livestock research products as transformative development interventions. The Clusters of Activities have been streamlined from five to four to improve its focus.

A more detailed summary of the ISPC concerns from its September 2016 feedback is presented in the two tables in the annex to this letter. We have focused on the final points made by ISPC in the feedback, but have also taken into account related comments that ISPC noted as 'partially addressed' from the earlier iterations of feedback. The FEWG review also provided comments which were overall strongly positive but also offered suggestions for improvements, which are also addressed in the response tables attached.

We look forward to the outcome of the review process and to the full reinstatement of these two flagships into the Livestock CRP.

Your sincerely,



Jimmy Smith
Director General, ILRI